



NPS of Sri Lanka introduces productivity concepts at household level

Restrengthening of the National Productivity Secretariat (NPS) of Sri Lanka in 2002 under the Ministry of Labour Relations and Manpower (now the Ministry of Labour Relations and Productivity Promotion) was a turning point in the productivity promotion campaign in the country. By 2001, the main focus was on the manufacturing and service sector, and most productivity concepts were introduced for the private sector. From 2002, productivity concepts were to be disseminated in four streams as mentioned in the Productivity Policy, the private sector, public sector, school sector, and community (household) level, which covers all facets of society. However, it was a challenging task for the NPS as it had to struggle with very limited resources.




An NPS staff member provides training on Household Productivity Development to the villagers of Dambulla May 2010. Photo courtesy of NPS

However, during the last seven years, the NPS has been able to make substantial changes in the public, private, and school sectors. Many private and public organizations and schools have made noteworthy achievements by introducing productivity concepts such as 5S, kaizen, quality

circles, Green Productivity (GP), etc. 2010 is another milestone for the NPS as it has initiated a program to introduce productivity practices at the household level based on the positive interest shown by the public after the introduction of a few pilot projects in 2009. The latest program was initiated in the Dambulla division of Sri Lanka last May.

Under this project, villagers are educated, guided, and supervised in easy productivity concepts such as good housekeeping (5S) and kaizen. GP practices are also introduced to encourage green gardens and to apply the 3Rs, which will make a substantial contribution to minimizing resource waste and in turn lead to lower costs for family units. In addition, good ethical practices are introduced and encouraged to improve the values of family members. Home gardening is another main component of this project, and organic fertilizers are expected to be used.

The ultimate long-term objective of this project is to form productive family units. The participation of all family members will make this project successful. In particular, with the participation of children in families, an excellent workforce will be developed who can contribute to the economic, social, and cultural development of Sri Lanka. The NPS plans to select the best household units to receive appreciation rewards, as is already practiced for the private, public, and school sectors. 

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